



November 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 2:02 PM by Chair Sarah VanCleve

Attendance: Sarah Van Cleve-*Chair*, Trudy Stacy-*Member At Large*, Chris Brunell – *Secretary*, Julie Graves – *Past Chair*, Monica Bernhard, Manny Cruz, Kirsten Jewell, Walt LeCouteur, Sue Battin, Holly Paterson, Joe Summers, Angie Zimmerman, Doug Washburn, Renee Kimball-Raise, Penny Lamping, Sheryl Piercy, Shaylynn Houston, Sabina Wagner, Jennifer Landsberger, Terry Schroeder

Introductions were made around the table.

Agenda Review: No corrections were made to the agenda

Walt LeCouteur moved and Manny Cruz seconded to approve the minutes from October as presented.

**State of Emergency – Monica Bernhard:** Monica led a discussion regarding the State of Emergency declaration that was made in Seattle/King County recently. Los Angeles, Portland and Hawaii have also declared a State of Emergency. King County's declaration was made based on the Point in Time count numbers and number of death of persons experiencing homelessness.

Monica asked the group what level of crisis we feel we are facing in Kitsap. We have increasing numbers on our wait list; today the HSC wait list has 14 people on it, but a week ago there were 20+. Today's list consists of 10 men and 4 women with children. Last year there was an average of 20 households per month that passed through the wait list; this year there were 71 in September, 42 in October with an average wait time of 14 days. Shelters are working hard to move people through, but it isn't quick enough. One possibility would be having an overflow shelter that would be triggered once the wait list hits a certain number. There is a video of what Spokane did, reallocating their HUD CoC funding for one program, changing it to a rapid rehousing program. She will send the link to Terry to put in the Thursday Journal.

Our vacancy rate is affecting the numbers. Persons who are approved for rapid rehousing funding are often spending 30 to 45 days looking for housing. Vouchers can be extended, which helps, but it still is taking a long time to find affordable housing. Staffing is also a major issue as we are seeing 6 to 8 persons for rapid rehousing each day.

**RFP for Coordinated Entry Funding – Kirsten Jewell:** There has been no action yet on this. There was a lot of input/feedback about doing a set aside for the HSC last year. This committee will look at the possibility of doing a multi-year proposal for Coordinated Entry. They will determine the work plan, etc. for the Coordinated Entry program after 2016. If you are interested in being in this group to look at Coordinated Entry, let Kirsten Jewell know. Kirsten hopes to

convene the first meeting in early December so it can be done by the end of the first quarter and have ample time to go through the County process.

**Housing First – Kirsten Jewell:** Kirsten has had some conversations with people interested in a committee to put together a Housing First project. It is felt a Housing First Workshop to educate the public would be an important first step. If you are interested, contact Kirsten Jewell. Kirsten hopes to start meeting in January.

**CoC (McKinney) Funding –** There was discussion regarding the HUD CoC funding. The three renewal programs have submitted their grants to the Balance of State and the Kitsap CoCC submitted answers to the questions sent by BOS. This brings \$450,000 into Kitsap County and is important funding. The YWCA has applied for reallocation for their transitional housing program to become a permanent supportive housing program.

**Homeless Housing Plan – Kirsten Jewell:** The Homeless Housing Plan (HHP) was approved by the County Commissioners on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Kirsten reported there were good questions asked by the Commissioners. There are 61 Action Steps in the plans; the next step is to determine which of those will be priorities for the next year. The Commissioners are interested in a multi-faceted approach to dealing with those action steps.

**Homes for All Who Served – Kirsten Jewell:** This is now the name of the Veterans Initiative to get to Functional Zero for veterans who are experiencing homelessness. This group has finished the Master List of veterans who are experiencing homelessness. They found 45 veterans who were literally homeless during the month they were actively working on the Master List. The Target is to get to functional zero by Veterans Day 2016. A press release was distributed to a couple local news media. The Kitsap Sun will be running a longer article. The group wants to reach out to landlords who might be willing to rent to veterans and develop a strategic plan to work with them.

**Severe Weather Shelter – Sheryl Piercy:** The Severe Weather Shelter is operational and will be open on Thanksgiving Day. The Bremerton shelter is now located at the Salvation Army with overflow at the Kitsap Rescue Mission. There is also a Kingston shelter at the Kingston Community Center. There was discussion about opening the shelter all winter. Department of Emergency Management, which provides the volunteer recruitment and training and the liability insurance is not able to do this as it needs to fall under an emergency designation. In order for the Salvation Army to do it, they would need more volunteers; currently DEM has 60 trained volunteers. It is supposed to be cold next week, so the shelter could be activated, in addition to Thanksgiving.

**Project Connect – Sue Battin:** They are working on developing a business card with the date, location and contact information about Project Connect. These will be provided to agencies to hand out to clients. Vendor letters are being sent out, reminding them to save the date. Flyers for the various donation categories have been done for this year. Terry will add them to the Thursday Journal and put them on the web site. The Salvation Army will again be the food vendors and the youth will serve the food.

**Coordinator Report – Terry Schroeder:** Terry reported she has primarily been working on the HUD CoC funding, helping with leverage letters, the Consistency with CDBG, and the questions for the Balance of State. She also attended the BOS CoC Steering Committee meeting and CHS Grantee forum.

## Agency Updates

**Peninsula Community Health Services – Renee Kimball:** Renee reported the South Kitsap Dental Clinic is now open. It is located at 1950 Pottery Avenue (corner of Lippert and Sidney) on the main floor.

**The Salvation Army – Sheryl Piercy:** National Homelessness and Hunger Week is coming up next week. “Time Out of Mind” is a film that will be shown in Port Orchard from November 27 through December 3. Sheryl passed out information about this and if you mention The Salvation Army you get in for \$5 and get a free popcorn. Salvation Army has signed up kids for Christmas. The Toys for Tots party is December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Kitsap County Human Services – Kirsten Jewell:** As the Tent City ordinance moves forward, there will likely be assistance from the full Kitsap CoCC that will be needed. Kirsten is working on a scatter chart of known encampments and a scatter chart showing where services are currently available. Public hearings will likely start in January; they are currently working with attorneys in putting the ordinance together. The Commissioners want to bring it forward as an emergency ordinance and then make it permanent. There are some power points that Kirsten has done that could be used to educate, although they would need to be adjusted. There was a question about whether we should schedule education forums. Kirsten said she would take that to Policy Staff to see what they think. She was thinking of providing education through citizen advisory groups initially.

**South Kitsap Community Alliance – Joe Summers:** They are vigorously working on the ordinance for tent encampments. They may have something in place soon. They have had two work/study meetings with Commissioners and will have a couple more. For Thanksgiving and Christmas, Moondogs 2 and Bringing it to the Streets Ministry will be offering a free meal to all who are interested. They expect to serve 400-500 persons each day.

**Kitsap Rescue Mission – Walt LeCouteur:** The KRM will offer a meal on the Friday following Thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving Day, Manor Farm Inn in Poulsbo will be doing a benefit for Kitsap Rescue Mission. They are serving a Thanksgiving meal at 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm for \$35.00 per person. All who are interested are invited; all proceeds will go to the KRM. Walt shared a success story: About a month ago, a veteran who lived in his wheelchair on the streets was assisted by KRM’s volunteer Veterans Advocate. He has been able to assist the veteran in getting into the VA Hospital. Upon his release, he will be going to a Veteran’s Home. The Veteran Advocate is currently working with three other veterans who are experiencing homelessness.

**Veterans Administration – Sabina Wagner-Lewis:** Veterans Housing Options Group (VHOG) meets weekly on Mondays at Kitsap Community Resources at 1:00 pm. This is a walk-in resource for veterans in need of housing. They only need to attend once. The VA is working to get another outreach working in Kitsap on a permanent basis. If someone is not able to come to the VHOG, Sabina is able to screen them elsewhere if they contact her.

**Kitsap Community Resources– Monica Bernhard:** Their Puget Sound Energy program is fully booked through December. If someone has a 24-48-hour notice, they can be served as an emergency. On December 21, they anticipate opening the schedule for LIHEAP appointments for January through March. LIHEAP can serve people with any kind of energy assistance.

**Goodwill – Shaylynn Houston:** Goodwill is doing an Employer event on December 1. Currently they have ten employers who currently have job openings. Their clients will attend a workshop on Monday and go shopping for appropriate interview clothing. They will also work with an Employment Specialist for help in finding employment. Shaylynn also passed out flyers regarding the Super Saturday event in February. Terry will add that flyer and information to the Thursday Journal.

**Georgia's House – Jennifer Landsberger:** They are installing a new furnace. At the end of Hunger and Homelessness Week, they have a fund raising event at Silverdale Methodist Church. It will be on November 22 at 1:30 and will include a lunch catered by That One Place and a dessert auction.

**Benedict House – Chris Brunell:** They have a full house. Their resident population overall is more difficult to work with. They have a good relationship with Kitsap Mental Health to work with some of their residents. They have had several people who were living in the woods come into Benedict House, including seven veterans.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Brunell, Secretary